



NEWS RELEASE

05-209

Date: July 20, 2005
District: 8 - Inland Empire
Contact: Rose Melgoza or Thomas Knox
Phone: (909) 383-6477, or 383-6733

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mission Inn Ave. On Ramp Set for Closure

RIVERSIDE – Caltrans will close the Mission Inn Ave. on ramp to the eastbound State Route 91 beginning July 22 at 8 p.m. to July 25 at 5 a.m. This special weekend closure of the ramp will allow work crews to make improvements to freeway access at Mission Inn Ave. in much less time than normal.

“We have the task of updating the on ramp at Mission Inn Ave. near Vine Street and providing a smoother and more efficient access for motorists to the freeway,” said Michael Perovich, deputy district director for Construction for Caltrans in San Bernardino. “By using this entire weekend for the closure, our contractor can effectively complete a 5-week job in just three days.”

Perovich said the improvements include reconstructing the island, curb and gutter at the mouth of the on ramp. This work is part of the \$317 million 60/91/215 Freeway Improvement Project, which started in March 2004. Under that project new sweeping connector ramps from Interstate 215 to State Route 91 and new bridges at Linden and Iowa streets will be built. The entire project is slated for a late 2007 completion date.

Currently, the project is about 14 percent completed. Visible signs of construction are evident near the University of California Riverside where new bridges stretch across I-215 Linden and Iowa streets. Also, concrete columns reaching more than 70 feet high grace the interchange between I-215, and State Routes 60 and 91 where mile-long freeway connector ramps are under construction. These ramps will ultimately transfer motorists from the northbound I-215 to the westbound SR91.

Caltrans, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are working in partnership to construct improvements

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to the 60/91/215 Interchange and segments of each of the freeways that serve it. This project is one of the largest and most complex projects in the Inland Empire. The project stretches a distance of almost nine miles from Riverside on the west to Moreno Valley at its easterly terminus.

The three freeways that make up this overall improvement project and interchange are critical links between major Inland Empire communities in both Riverside and San Bernardino counties and serve the major flow of commuter and commercial traffic throughout the region. This interchange carried nearly 314,000 daily vehicles in 2003 and served more than 332,000 vehicles each day in 2004.

For project updates, call Caltrans directly at 1-866-60-91-215, or view the Web site at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/6091215/schedule.htm>.



Specialized architectural wall design is featured on freeway retaining walls along State Route 91 near the Mission Inn On Ramp. The artwork is part of an effort to incorporate local history and culture into the overall freeway project improvement. Photos - Mario Maala

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